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Docket No.: 50099-18

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Shigenobu MAEDA, et al. : Confirmation Number: 8927

Application No.: 09/988,593 : Group Art Unit: 2823

Filed: November 20, 2001 : Examiner: Pham, Thanh V.

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING IMPURITY REGION UNDER ISOLATION

REGION (As Amended)

SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted with regard to an Examiner Interview conducted on November 10, 2004, during which Examiner Pham and Applicants' respective, the undersigned, participated.

REMARKS

On November 3, 2004, an Examiner's Answer was issued in response to the Appeal Brief filed November 4, 2003. However, as noted during the interview, an Examiner's Answer was previously issued by the Patent Office on December 23, 2003, and a Reply Brief in response to

Application No.: 09/988,593

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this first Examiner's Answer was filed on February 20, 2004. Furthermore, the second

Examiner's Answer is identical to the first Examiner's Answer.

In response to Applicants' query regarding this second Examiner's Answer, the Examiner

stated that the signature page on page 6 of the first Examiner's Answer was not signed by any of

the Examiners that reviewed the Appeal Brief, and the second Examiner's Answer was issued

solely to correct this oversight by the Patent Office. The Examiner also stated that a response to

the second Examiner's Answer is not needed.

Applicants request that disposition of the Appeal Brief be expedited if, as a result the

aforementioned oversight by the Patent Office, the consideration of the Appeal Brief has been

delayed.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Scott D. Paul

Registration No. 42,984

600 13th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20005-3096 Phone: 202.756.8000 SDP:kap

Facsimile: 202.756.8087

Date: December 7, 2004

Please recognize our Customer No. 20277 as our correspondence address.

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2